

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04  
ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01  
/100 W

-----101632Z 125774 /50

R 101421Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0764

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, AU

SUBJECT: MFA RENEWAL - AUSTRIAN VIEWS

REF: A, STATE 4395, B, STATE A-336

1. SUMMARY: AUSTRIANS NOT VERY HAPPY WITH MULTIFIBER ARRANGEMENT (MFA) AND WOULD LIKE AMENDED: NEVERTHELESS, IF IT APPEARS THAT PRESSING AMENDMENTS WOULD ENDANGER RENEWAL, GOA PREPARED TO ACCEPT EXTENSION OF ARRANGMENT "AS IS".  
END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF RECENTLY HAD CONVERSATION WITH GERHARD WAAS OF AUSTRIAN TRADE MINISTRY ON RESULTS OF LAST DECEMBER'S TEXTILE COMMITTEE (TC) MEETINGS ON MFA RENEWAL AND OUTLOOK FOR THE LATE FEBRUARY TC SESSION ON THIS SUBJECT. EMBOFF OPENED DISCUSSION BY STATING USG POSITION AS OUTLINED REF.

A. WAAS SAID THAT GOA WAS UNDER "TREMENDOUS PRESSURE" FROM AUSTRIAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY TO SEEK AMENDMENT OF MFA. A PRINCIPAL PROBLEM FOR THE AUSTRIAN INDUSTRY,

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HE REMARKED, REMAINS THE MFA PROVISIONS ENABLING EXPORTERS TO DEVELOP LARGE BASES BEFORE FACING RESTRAINTS. AS A RESULT, ACCORDING TO WAAS, THE GOA WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE MFA BUT WOULD GO ALONG WITH A SIMPLE EXTENSION IF IT APPEARED THAT THE ALTERNATIVE WERE NO MFA AT ALL. WAAS ADDED THAT BASIC GOA POSITION WAS SET FORTH IN TC DOCUMENT COM TEX/W/39

OF JANUARY 17.

3. WITH REGARD TO LATE FEBRUARY TC MEETING, WAAS SAID THE AUSTRIAN DEL WOULD REMAIN "FLEXIBLE". THEY WILL HAVE CHANGES TO PROPOSE BUT WILL WAIT TO SEE WHAT THE ATMOSPHERE IS IN GENEVA BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER TO FORMALLY PRESENT THEM, AND IF SO, HOW FAR TO PRESS THEM.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES AUSTRIANS WILL CLOSELY WATCH THE EC ON THIS ISSUE. IF THE EC INTRODUCES AMENDMENTS AND SEEMS TO BE MAKING HEADWAY, AUSTRIANS ARE LIKELY TO SUPPORT IT AND PERHAPS SUGGEST CHANGES OF THEIR OWN. CONVERSELY, IF THE EC JOINS IN THE HPED FOR CONSENSUS FOR EXTENSION OR IS CLEARLY ISOLATED IN OPPOSITION, GOA WILL PROBABLY SUPPORT RENEWAL "AS IS".  
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## Message Attributes

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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009